

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
KENTUCKY BOARD OF TAX APPEALS
FILE NO. K06-S-12**

GORDON HOWE

APPELLANT

V.

ORDER NO. K-19821

**BOYLE COUNTY PROPERTY
VALUATION ADMINISTRATOR**

APPELLEE

The Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals delegated authority to a hearing officer pursuant to KRS 13B.030. The hearing officer entered a recommended order in compliance with the provisions of KRS 13B.110. No exceptions or objections to the recommended order were filed. The Board has reviewed the record and the recommended order.

The Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals conducted a hearing in this matter on December 14, 2006 and made the following findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommended disposition.

FINDINGS OF FACT

This assessment appeal is for real property located at 511 Boone Trail, Danville, Kentucky 40422. The Boyle County Property Valuation Administrator assessed the property at \$130,000. The taxpayer or Appellant values the property at \$100,000. The Boyle County Board of Assessment Appeals valued the property at \$130,000. The Appellants filed a timely appeal from the local board with the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals.

The Appellant offered the following evidence in support of Appellant's appeal:

Mr. Gordon Howe appeared as the witness for the Appellant and provided sworn testimony in support of the \$100,000 assessment. The Appellant bought the property in January 1973 for \$39,000 and after taking possession of the property made repairs of installing two (2) sky lights.

The Appellant presented a comparable sale with no square footage available at a sale price of \$125,000.

The property in question is showing 2,021 square feet of living space, 400 square feet for garage, 98 square feet for porch and 140 square feet for deck.

Comparable sale No. 3 located at 506 Boone Trail has 1,797 square feet and the sale price was \$125,000. The property was a one (1) story brick with attached garage and no basement. Per Mr. Howe his home is insured for \$135,000 but insurance goes up based on replacement cost and not based on comparable sales.

Ms. Jennifer Abrams Chief Administrative Assistant to Mr. Eddie Tamme, the Boyle County Property Valuation Administrator along with Mr. Harold McKinney, Assistant Boyle County Attorney provided testimony and argues comparable sales would indicate the property in question should be assessed at \$130,000. The four (4) comparable sales presented by Ms. Abrams range from 2,068 square feet at a sale price of \$185,000 to 1, 797 square feet at a sale price of \$125,000.

It is the finding of this hearing office that the Appellant did partially sustain his burden of proof regarding his challenge to the final order of the Boyle County Board of Assessment Appeals.

Based upon the evidence in the record, it is the finding of this hearing officer, Randall Phillips that the fair cash value of the property in question as of January 1, 2006 is \$125,000.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals is vested with exclusive jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals from final rulings, orders and determinations of the Boyle County Board of Assessment Appeals pursuant to KRS 131.340(1).

The function of the Board is not simply to review the action of the Boyle County Board of Assessment Appeals, but to try anew the issues as presented. *Jefferson County Property Valuation Administrator v. Oxford Properties, Inc.*, Ky.App., 726 S.W.2d 317, 319 (1987). See KRS 131.340(1).

Section 172 of the Kentucky Constitution mandates that “all property shall be assessed for taxation at its fair cash value, estimated at the price it would bring a fair voluntary sale.”

The choice of the most appropriate and reliable approach to valuation is within the prerogative of the Board. *Jefferson County Property Valuation Administrator*, 726 S.W.2d at 319.

Regardless of the manner or method used by the Property Valuation Administrator or the decision of the Kentucky Tax Board of Appeals, the finding of valuation must be at its fair cash value, estimated at the price it would bring at a fair voluntary sale. *Helman v. Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals*, Ky.App., 554 S.W.2d 889 (1977).

As the party proposing that the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals set aside the decision of

the Boyle County Board of Assessment Appeals, the Appellants have the burden of proving a lower value. KRS 13B.090(7).

If the property is sold at or near the assessment date in a fair and voluntary sale, the sale price is usually the best evidence of the property's fair cash value. *Sears, Roebuck & Company v. Boone County Board of Assessment Appeals*, Ky.App., 715 S.W.2d 888, 889 (1986).

Based upon the facts as established in this hearing, the hearing officer concludes that the fair cash value of the subject property as of January 1, 2006 is \$125,000.

RECOMMENDED ORDER

It is recommended that the June 14, 2006 final ruling of the Boyle County Board of Assessment Appeals be reversed and the real property be assessed at a fair cash value of \$125,000 as of January 1, 2006

Each party shall have fifteen (15) days from the date any recommended order is mailed within which to file exceptions to the recommendations with the agency head. Transmittal of a recommended order may be sent by regular mail to the last known address of the party.

FINAL ORDER

The Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals has considered the record and accepts the recommended order of the hearing officer, and adopts it as the Board's final order. Failure to file exceptions to an administrative hearing officer's recommendations after a hearing constitutes a failure to exhaust administrative remedies and precludes appellate review. *Swatzell v. Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet*, Ky App 962 SW 2d 866 (1998).

It is ordered the June 14, 2006 final ruling of the Boyle County Board of Assessment

Appeals be reversed and the real property be assessed at a fair cash value of \$125,000 as of January 1, 2006.

The following information is provided pursuant to the final order requirements of KRS Chapter 13B:

This is a final and appealable order. All final orders of this agency shall be subject to judicial review in accordance with the provisions of KRS Chapter 13B. A party shall institute an appeal by filing a petition in the Circuit Court of venue, as provided in the agency's enabling statutes, within thirty (30) days after the final order of the agency is mailed or delivered by personal service. If venue for appeal is not stated in the enabling statutes, a party may appeal to Franklin Circuit Court or the Circuit Court of the county in which the appealing party resides or operates a place of business. Copies of the petition shall be served by the petitioner upon the agency and all parties of record. The petition shall include the names and addresses of all parties to the proceeding and the agency involved, and a statement of the grounds on which the review is requested. The petition shall be accompanied by a copy of the final order.

A party may file a petition for judicial review only after the party has exhausted all administrative remedies available within the agency whose action is being challenged, and within any other agency authorized to exercise administrative review.

A petition for judicial review shall not automatically stay a final order pending the outcome of the review, unless:

- (a) An automatic stay is provided by statute upon appeal or at any point in the administrative proceedings;
- (b) A stay is permitted by the agency and granted upon request; or

(c) A stay is ordered by the Circuit Court of jurisdiction upon petition.

Within twenty (20) days after service of the petition of appeal, or within further time allowed by the Circuit Court, the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals shall transmit to the reviewing court the original or a certified copy of the official record of the proceeding under review in compliance with KRS 13B.140(3).

**DATE OF ORDER
AND MAILING: May 1, 2007**

**FULL BOARD CONCURRING.
KENTUCKY BOARD OF TAX APPEALS**

**NANCY MITCHELL
CHAIR**